

Proposed Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve Open House



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

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Puget Sound

Healthy Puget Sound essential for social and economic well being of this and future generations.



Puget Sound in Distress



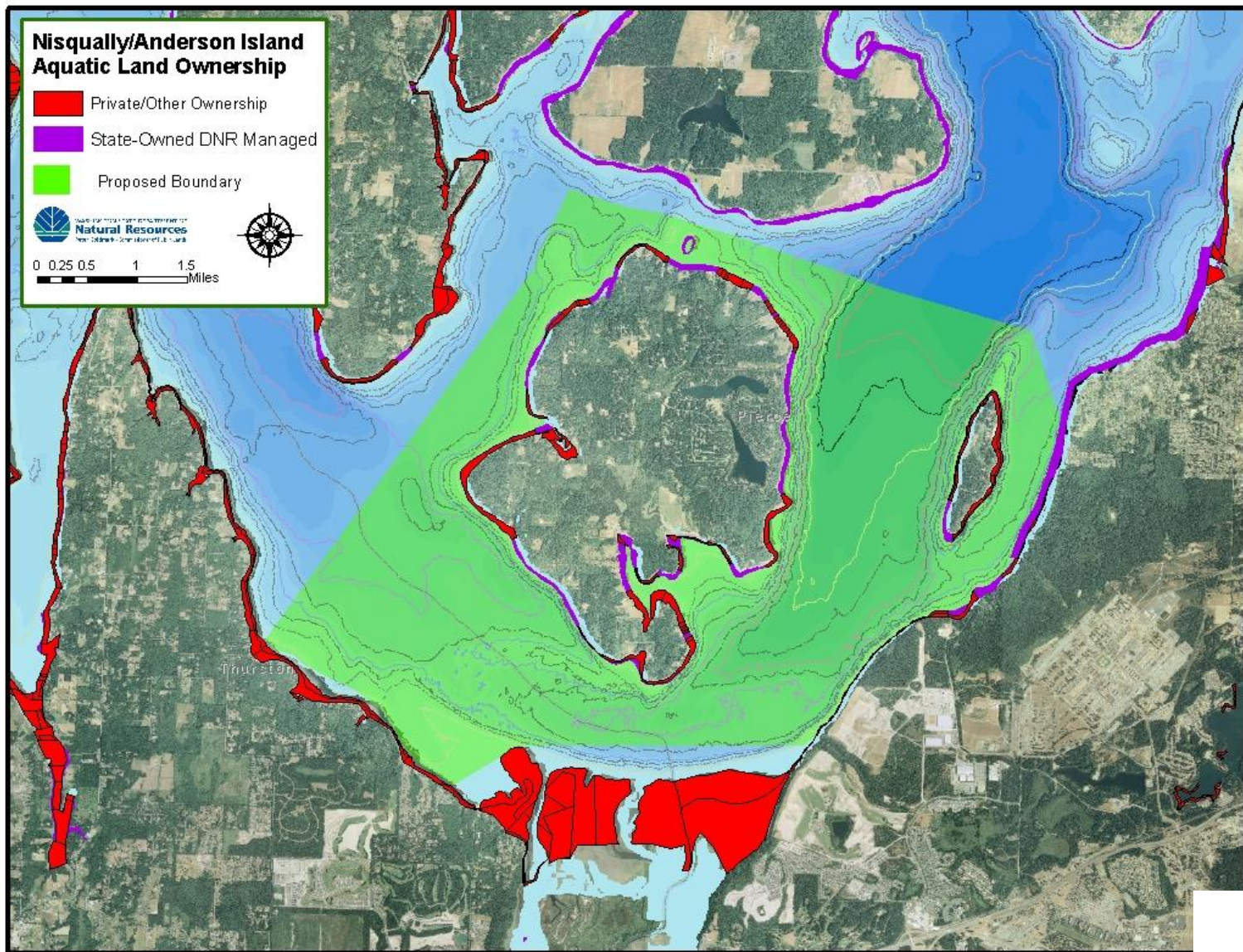
Causes of low oxygen in Hood Canal

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program presented these hypotheses as to what causes low oxygen levels in the Canal. There's no clearcut evidence as to which ones might be most responsible, but further efforts are under way to determine the best course of action to protect Hood Canal.

- **Sunlight/climate:** Increased sunlight and other climatic factors lead to better growth conditions for algae and plankton.
- **Increased nutrients:** Plentiful nitrogen in the water helps fuel giant population surges in plankton and algae.
- **Human-caused nutrient loading:** Most septic systems along Hood Canal don't remove nitrogen from treated sewage. Other, older septic systems often channel nearly raw sewage into Hood Canal.
- **Ocean properties:** Changes in seawater density that affect flushing of the Canal's waters, oxygen concentration or nutrients in the incoming water.
- **Weather conditions:** Changes in wind speed and direction that affect the flushing and/or oxygen distribution.



Existing DNR Management



DNR and Puget Sound Aquatic Lands

- Steward of 1.9 million acres of Puget Sound, owned by people of Washington
- Water-dependent uses, public use & access, sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection



Nisqually Reach/Anderson Island



Nisqually Reach and Anderson Island

PugetSoundPartnership
our sound, our community, our chance

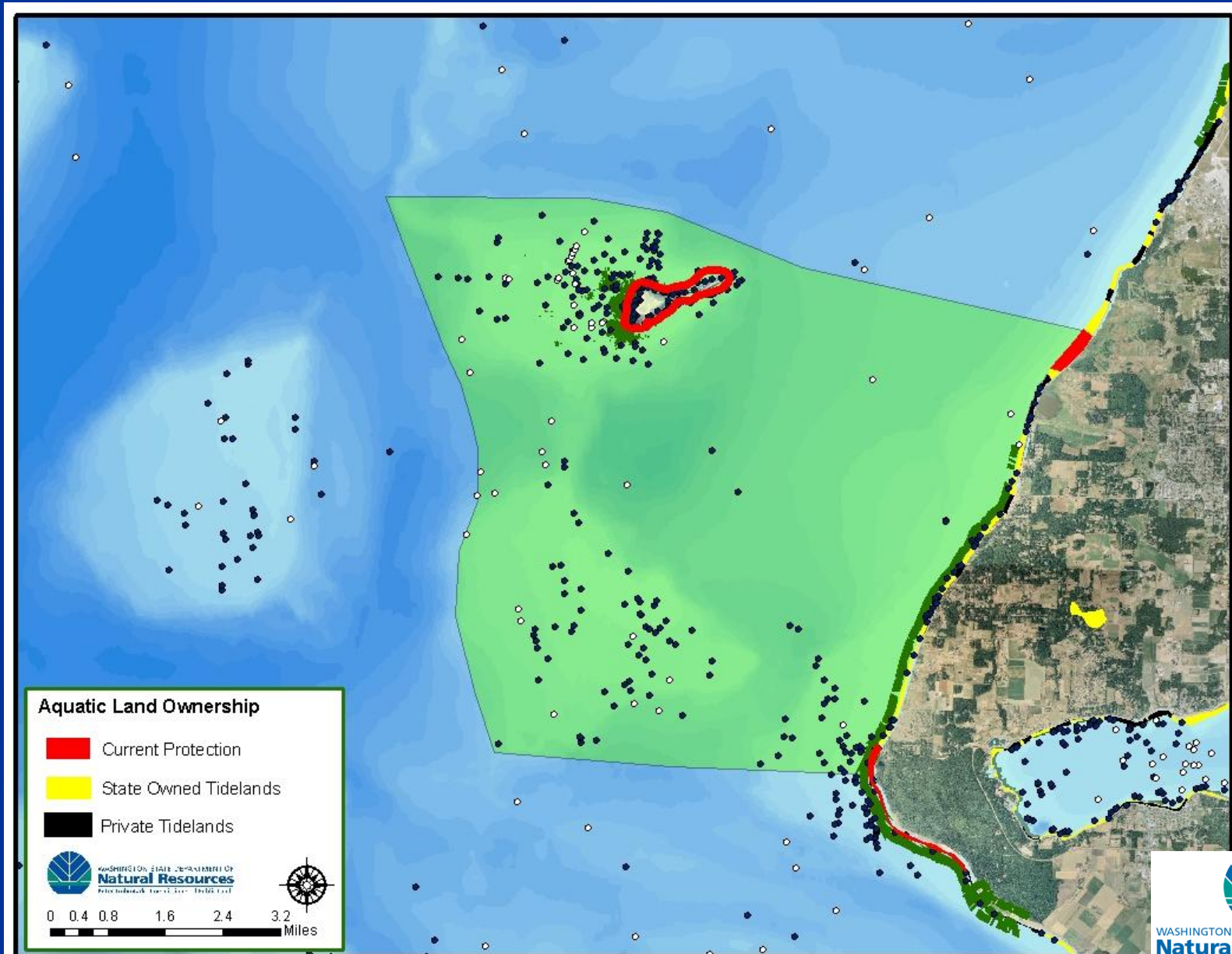
Action Agenda identifies this area as an important conservation target



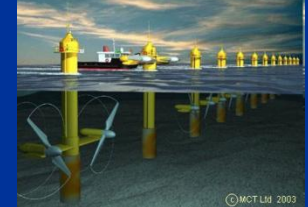
Eco-regional assessment identifies area as ecologically significant



Current Aquatic Protection



Aquatic Reserves Program



Conservation Targets

DNR land management activities



Management Plan



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Process & Timeline

Stage 1 – Nomination & Evaluation – Ongoing

- Outreach, public input, scientific evaluation

Stage 2 – Planning & SEPA – Summer/Fall 09

- Management plan development, SEPA Public Review

Stage 3 – Formal Decision – Fall 09/Winter 10

- DNR Commissioner's Decision on Adoption

Local Opportunity

Help us develop the policies by which DNR will manage uses on these state-owned aquatic lands for the next 90 years.